

The SUBURBAN and COUNTRY HOME FLOWERS, FRUITS and VEGETABLES

EDITED by EDWARD C. VICK

Government Seed Distribution Humbug— Does Nobody Good, Makes Everybody Expense

The United States Department of Agriculture has requested quotations on 14,000 bushels of corn, beans and peas and more than twenty-one tons of wheat, oats, barley, rye, timothy, alfalfa, clover, vetch, and other forage crops. The quotations are asked for on thirteen tons of flower seeds. Flower seeds are light, so the enormous quantity may be imagined. The flower seeds are aster, antirrhinum, balsam, calendula, candytuft, centaurea, chrysanthemum, corolla, cosmos, delphinium, dianthus, morning glory, mignonette, nasturtium, petunia, poppy, portulaca, sweet alyssum, sweet peas and zinnia.

There is not one new thing in the whole list, which shows what a gigantic humbug the whole Congressional seed distribution is. The original object was to distribute new and rare plants, but this has been entirely lost sight of.

GARDENS NEEDED TO CURTAIL LIVING EXPENSES.

With the prices of food constantly soaring, there never was greater need of home fruit and vegetable gardens than now, and the prospects for another year seem no better. Higher rather than lower prices confront us.

In a fair sized garden small fruits can be grown, raspberries, blackberries, currants, strawberries, and a grape vine or two will give the family some fruit that otherwise they may not be able to obtain.

Pot grown strawberries planted in

August will produce a crop of fruit next season. Grapes, raspberries, blackberries and currants may be set out in the autumn as soon as the plants have dropped their foliage.

Make plans for a productive vegetable garden next year and begin by getting the soil in shape this autumn. If the soil is heavy clay give it a coating of the shavings from ashes and turn these under, incorporating them with the soil. Turn the bed over a second time after covering it with stable manure. If manure is not to be had, gather up a quantity of leaves in the autumn and pile them up in a corner, or store them in boxes or barrels to decay, and turn them under next spring, afterward giving the garden a dressing of lime, making this into the top soil. Then the garden is ready for a successful start.

There is an economy in the home vegetable garden that few gardeners take into consideration when crediting the garden with what it produces. Fresh vegetables taken from the garden and cooked the same day cook much quicker than vegetables that have been a day on the road to market and then lay a day in the market. Usually store vegetables are more than two days old.

The saving in fuel in cooking a meal of fresh home grown vegetables is considerable and through the summer amounts to quite a saving, to say nothing of the time saved by the housewife.

To test the matter, buy a few beets at market and pull some fresh from the garden. Put both lots on the stove at the same time and see how much quicker the home grown product cooks.

HIGH FRUIT PRICES TO CONTINUE.

W. J. Green, horticulturist of the Ohio experiment station, believes the high prices for small fruits will continue for several years because of the unusual demand and the scarcity of labor.

Immense quantities of fruits have been contracted for for ice cream and beverages and the fruit acreage has decreased.

The weather in France and England has been very unfavorable for fruit and vegetable crops. The continued drought caused great loss to farmers and gardeners.

The whole situation is one to encourage every one who can to grow his own supply of small fruits and vegetables.

Cucumber and squash plants are subject to attacks of plant lice causing considerable damage. The attacks may be sudden, so the vines should be watched. When the lice are seen spray with nicotine solution or kerosene emulsion or fish oil soap or some of the proprietary articles, such as aphine or sulco.

The under sides of the leaves must be thoroughly covered.

Cover each shoot of squash and pumpkin vines with a space of earth. This will induce the roots to grow where the vine is covered with earth, and if the main stem decays from attacks of borers, the new roots will support the plant and enable it to mature a crop.

Examine the vines carefully during this month for borers. When found, slit the vine lengthwise with a pen knife and kill the borer. The cut will heal, if the borer is caught in time.

GROWING AND FERTILIZING LETTUCE.

A Freeport, N. Y., reader desires information regarding the culture of lettuce.

To begin with, lettuce succeeds best in a light, warm rich soil. Make the bed rich with stable manure and earth, and the lettuce will be dealt with the same care as the other vegetables. Lettuce may also be worked in to good advantage.

Well rotted leaves added heavily to clay soil, together with ashes and a coating of lime, will do wonders. Turn the leaves and ashes under, adding the

lime to the surface, lightly raking it in. When the plants are set out and growth starts work prepared sheep manure about the plants and they will grow like weeds.

Seeds sown in a hotbed in February will give good plants to set out in April to mature in May, planted in May will mature in June and so on. For summer use black seeded Simpson.

Cultivate frequently, keeping the top soil loose, thus forming a dust mulch about the plants. Constant hoeing is what the lettuce thrives under.

Timely thinning of the young plants is important to make them stocky. The rows should be a foot apart and the plants set six, nine or twelve inches apart in the rows, according to the size at which the plants are wanted.

With soil made rich with stable manure usually no other fertilizer will be required, but if additional forcing is desired liquid manure or nitrate of soda may be used, an even teaspoonful of soda to the gallon of water.

In using liquid manure do not get it on the plants, but apply to the soil about the roots of the plants.

A Freehold, N. J., reader wants to know if spraying celery with sulco will prove an effective safeguard against celery blight.

I have had no experience with sulco on celery, but from its action on other plants believe it will work as well as Bordeaux on celery. The manufacturers say it will check celery blight. Try it and report results.

From experience and observation I find metal windmills are not as durable as wood.

In traveling about the country dericks or towers are seen in all directions where the metal wheels have rusted out and blown down.

Metal covers do not last as long as well made towers of wood. Metal siding for buildings and for roofs has not proved generally satisfactory or economical. Metal roofs are good conductors of heat and cold and make buildings very hot in summer and cold in winter.

The premium list of the eighty-eighth fair of the American Institute is ready for distribution. The fair will be held at 33 West Thirty-ninth street, New York, September 23 to 25.

The premium list covers dahlias, chrysanthemums, gladioli, miscellaneas cut flowers, roses, carnations, apples, pears, grapes, vegetables and implements. W. A. Earle, secretary, 323 West Twenty-third street, New York.

Cultivate the garden once a week to keep down the weeds. It is easiest to do this when they are small. The top surface of the soil should be kept loose whether there are any weeds or not.

Birds rid orchards and fields of noxious insects. Provide safe nesting places for them and drinking water and food in times of stress.

Garden insects and diseases gain the greatest headway and give most trouble in neglected gardens. Keep the garden clean and free from weeds and save trouble.

Take a cup of milk and add to it a few tablespoons of raspberry juice. Beat an egg well and add the milk to the egg, continuing the beating. This makes a refreshing and nourishing drink.

"THE MAGICALLY BEAUTIFUL AURICULA."

By C. E. URQUHART.

During my stay in this country, being a Scotch woman from the land of the mountain and the flood, nothing has surprised me more than to see or hear nothing of one of our most beautiful flowers, the auricula. It seems to be practically unknown in America, for when I have asked my flower loving friends how comes it you have no auriculas in your gardens, "Auriculas" they have replied in wonderment. "What are they? We have never heard of them."

They are plants of the same genus as the primrose, but belong to the aristocratic branch of the family. The auricula was highly esteemed by the Romans; thus it lays claim to a classical and ancient pedigree. With us in Scotland the auricula is greatly valued and lavishly cultivated, but it is in Lancashire, England, where it is in its greatest perfection, not alone in costly greenhouses and conservatories or in the parlors of the rich, but blooming in the small gardens and yards of the humble operatives in busy, noisy factories. It is certainly without exaggeration one of the loveliest of flowers, with a fragrance delicate and elusive, rivaling the sweetness of the violet. Although the wine colored flowers, deepening to a royal purple or shading off into a soft rose hue, covered with pale yellow, mealy powder, are considered by connoisseurs the most to be prized, I have seen a whole border thickly planted with bright golden flowers which had a beautiful effect.

By culture and art the auricula has been brought to great perfection. My father cultivated several rare specimens of it and his pride in the lovely blooms fostered by his care and skill was shared by all who visited our garden in Edinburgh. Mere color, however, is not so much the prerequisite of an auricula in the eye of the florist, as the form and shading. Let me quote from an authority the essential requirements for a perfect auricula. The petals must be fairly large, clustering thickly and closely so as to give fullness to the umbel. The stalks should be so strong that the flowers are not pendulous, but rise erect above the encircling leaves. The shape of the flowers ought to be nearly round, the white or yellow



The stone steps down the bluff to the lake beach at the Cyrus H. McCormick estate, Lake Forest, Ill.

The crevices between the stone steps are well-filled with grass, and in the side walls ferns and trailing plants are growing. Various rock plants are artistically arranged and include an

excellent collection of echeverias, sempervivums, sedums, etc.

Just as the photographer snapped the camera the party of visitors, consisting of Robert Fyle of the Conard and Jones Company, West Grove, Pa.; Mr. Read, vice-president of Holm & Olson, St. Paul, Minn.; E. F. Cbe, Elm City Nursery Company, New

Haven, Conn.; Mr. Hillemeier of Hillemeier & Sons, Lexington, Ky.; Mr. Verhaeren, Scottville, Tex., and F. L. Mulford, Landscape Architect, United States Department of Agriculture, unaware of what was taking place, turned their backs to observe something their attention was called to by one of the group.

der Primula auricula, described as a beautiful, low growing, early spring flowering plant, fine for borders, pot culture, etc. The fragrant flowers of many rich colors are borne in clusters on the top of stalks four to six inches long.

Now that rock planting is receiving intelligent attention in America there will be a demand for rock plants that florists should make an effort to supply. Gardeners find it difficult to obtain many desirable rock plants and are confined therefore to the comparatively few now obtainable.

The ramondias are interesting and are confined to partially shaded situations on damp ledges and fissures of rockwork or wedged in between the stones few subjects are equally as good.

In a mixture of three parts of sandy loam and one part good potting soil, with a few pieces of sandstone, the plants will do well.

Ramondia pyrenaica, or rosette mullin is a native of the Pyrenees. The flowers are purple. There is a white variety with dark brown foliage and a newer variety, bathala, having blue flowers, a native of the Balkans. The ramondias can be propagated by the leaves in the same manner as

beginnings and gloxinias. Use leaves with a part of the stem attached, dibbling them into a pan of sandy soil, giving a gentle bottom heat, keeping them close with a glass over them until rooted.

Some seasons the plants will produce a supply of seeds which will germinate readily if sown as soon as ripe in well drained pots placed in heat.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF GRAPE VINES.

In the Arnold Arboretum in Boston an especial effort has been made to show the decorative value of the grape vines. Not only are these vines being trained on trellises, where the different forms can be studied to advantage, but they are also draped over the walls in a most picturesque fashion. Many people who visit the Arboretum are attracted by the use of the climbing vines, and especially grape vines, for wall coverings, and are adapting the idea to their own estates. Probably the collection of grapes which the Arnold Arboretum possesses is the largest in the world. Few people realize that so large a number of species exist as can be found here. No little trouble and labor has been expended in forming this collection, which is one of great value.

Prof. Sargent has much faith in the decorative worth of the grape vines. All the North American species which are hardy are growing on the trellises or on the walls. Some of them, of course, are very common, while others are to be found almost nowhere else in this country. Among the species not often seen, yet worth attention, are two American species, Vitis Doaniana, a native of the Texas panhandle, and yet perfectly at home in New England, and V. cinerea, which grows wild on the river banks of the Mississippi Valley from Illinois to Kansas and Texas. These plants grow rapidly and have large and very attractive leaves.

From whatever part of the country the visitor may happen to come he is pretty sure to find the grapes with which he is familiar in the Arboretum grounds. If he comes from some of the more northerly States he will be familiar no doubt with the frost grape, V. vulpina, the species which grows furthest north of all. If he comes from the Southern States he may be pleased to find the muscadine or Southern fox grape. Texas is represented by the sweet mountain grape of the limestone hills, while from Illinois, Missouri and Texas come V. arizonica, with small gray green leaves. V.estivalis is the southern grape of the middle States, with large dark green leaves having rusty brown hairs below. Another middle State grape is V. cordifolia, with leaves which are light green on both surfaces and which bear large quantities of small blue fruit. This is a notable species, being one of the largest and most vigorous of all the American grape vines. Not infrequently it climbs to the top of the tallest tree in its native home and forms stems from one to two feet in diameter.

Then there are some very interesting Old World grape vines, one of the most ornamental being V. cuneata, North Japan is the native home of this

grape, which has enormous leaves which turn a bright scarlet in the fall. Prof. Sargent considers this one of the best of all grape vines for northern countries. The Chinese V. Davidii is interesting because it differs from all other grape vines in having stems which are thickly covered with spines. This is a handsome plant in the fall, when its leaves turn bright red, but unfortunately it is killed back badly in severe winters. In the Arboretum there are several Chinese grape vines, raised from seed collected by H. H. Wilson. Altogether these grapes are well worth increasing study and use.

There are many places where grape vines could be employed to advantage, for they are unsurpassed for growing on heavy pergolas, and with some of the species it is a simple matter to combine utility with beauty.

ENGLISH HORTICULTURISTS COMPLAIN OF INEFFICIENCY OF BUREAUCRACY.

Bureaucracy in England, it seems, was quite as unsuccessful as in America during the war. The following, from an English horticultural trade journal, shows the weakness and folly of the system:

"The Auditor-General's account of the war expenditure for 1917-18 some characteristic instances of incompetency and mismanagement and revealed—instances that justify to the hilt the average trader's doubt and distrust of the ability of a Government department to manage its own affairs, let alone those of the nation. Take the purchase of Dutch potatoes. It will be recalled that those were bought with a view to supplementing the home supplies, but for some inscrutable reason they remained for ages on the quay at Rotterdam, awaiting shipment. When they did arrive in England the market was gone, and they had to be sold, or otherwise disposed of, at a sacrifice. Exactly what that would mean is understood when it is shown that the consignment cost \$337,165 for freight and distribution alone, against which only \$255,335 was realized from the sale. As the figures of the prime cost of the stock are not shown it is impossible to state exactly how much this transaction cost the country."

"Another little venture of the department, prompted no doubt by one of those food faddists who are everlastingly passing round the most simple life, was the setting up of a vegetable drying plant to provide the army with dried vegetables. Theoretically the scheme was no doubt ideal, but practically it was as bad as a rotten apple, for the simple reason that an attempt was made to secure it in demand for the article existed, when the supply came along it was found that it did not exist. The army would not have dried vegetables at any price, and the business was consequently scrapped. Cost, \$95,000."

"But the biggest blunder of all was the tractor ploughing scheme. This cost the poor taxpayer the trifling of \$1,192,820. It was originally intended to recover the cost of this adventure from the farmer, but the British farmer didn't rise to the bait. A large amount of work was done that was not paid for. In connection with this work six thousand tractors were ordered from America, and 2,500 of these were eventually resold to the agents at \$1,000, who immediately disposed of them at \$1,350 each. The farmers, in reply to the Auditor-General's request to be informed why the department did not itself sell direct to the farmers, it was stated that it had no organization 'whereby it could obtain orders from farmers.' This, in view of the fact that the department had had thousands of tractors with it, the finest excuses that could be offered. It really is not worthy of a department that is capable of losing money in the grand and lordly way these facts disclose."

"The Food Department's deal in seed potatoes in the spring of 1917 resulted in a net loss to the country of \$23,565. The difference between the purchase price and the selling price of Scotch seed was \$47,640, but there was a margin of profit on the sale of Irish seed potatoes, so that the net loss at the end of the transaction stood at the figure above."

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

Gardens Needed More Than Ever Before to Reduce Living Cost

shown. It will probably be contended that the fillip given to potato production was cheaply bought at the price, but I fancy that equal, if not better, results would have been secured if the Food Controller had taken the trade into his confidence and offered a slight premium or bonus on output. As it was, the department seemed determined to discourage and discontinue any enterprise on the part of the legitimate trader. It evidently wanted to have a flutter on its own. It had it, and the British taxpayer is now asked to foot the bill.

ENGLISH HORTICULTURISTS COMPLAIN OF INEFFICIENCY OF BUREAUCRACY.

Bureaucracy in England, it seems, was quite as unsuccessful as in America during the war. The following, from an English horticultural trade journal, shows the weakness and folly of the system:

"The Auditor-General's account of the war expenditure for 1917-18 some characteristic instances of incompetency and mismanagement and revealed—instances that justify to the hilt the average trader's doubt and distrust of the ability of a Government department to manage its own affairs, let alone those of the nation. Take the purchase of Dutch potatoes. It will be recalled that those were bought with a view to supplementing the home supplies, but for some inscrutable reason they remained for ages on the quay at Rotterdam, awaiting shipment. When they did arrive in England the market was gone, and they had to be sold, or otherwise disposed of, at a sacrifice. Exactly what that would mean is understood when it is shown that the consignment cost \$337,165 for freight and distribution alone, against which only \$255,335 was realized from the sale. As the figures of the prime cost of the stock are not shown it is impossible to state exactly how much this transaction cost the country."

"Another little venture of the department, prompted no doubt by one of those food faddists who are everlastingly passing round the most simple life, was the setting up of a vegetable drying plant to provide the army with dried vegetables. Theoretically the scheme was no doubt ideal, but practically it was as bad as a rotten apple, for the simple reason that an attempt was made to secure it in demand for the article existed, when the supply came along it was found that it did not exist. The army would not have dried vegetables at any price, and the business was consequently scrapped. Cost, \$95,000."

"But the biggest blunder of all was the tractor ploughing scheme. This cost the poor taxpayer the trifling of \$1,192,820. It was originally intended to recover the cost of this adventure from the farmer, but the British farmer didn't rise to the bait. A large amount of work was done that was not paid for. In connection with this work six thousand tractors were ordered from America, and 2,500 of these were eventually resold to the agents at \$1,000, who immediately disposed of them at \$1,350 each. The farmers, in reply to the Auditor-General's request to be informed why the department did not itself sell direct to the farmers, it was stated that it had no organization 'whereby it could obtain orders from farmers.' This, in view of the fact that the department had had thousands of tractors with it, the finest excuses that could be offered. It really is not worthy of a department that is capable of losing money in the grand and lordly way these facts disclose."

"The Food Department's deal in seed potatoes in the spring of 1917 resulted in a net loss to the country of \$23,565. The difference between the purchase price and the selling price of Scotch seed was \$47,640, but there was a margin of profit on the sale of Irish seed potatoes, so that the net loss at the end of the transaction stood at the figure above."

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the country. Upon two cargoes of superphosphate, purchased for \$49,770, a loss of \$142,795 was made. The increase in the cost of freight and wastage were advanced as reasons for the loss, but as excuses they are as inadequate and insupportable as the board's reasons for butting into the business at all. This touching anxiety to secure bargains for the benefit of the consumer would be very charming, and nice if the bargains were not so confoundingly costly for the taxpayer. 'Archie' does the same sort of thing when he sends a diamond ring to his best girl, and the bill to 'Pa.'"

"The experience of the Board of Agriculture as a dealer in artificial manure was just as unfortunate—for the